

Work programme 2009

1. Introduction

The Secretariat gave an introduction to the Work Programme at the November meeting. This identified a number of areas of activity for 2009:

- a. Carry over of work from the 2008 work programme:
 - i. Lock states (the September meeting referred discussion back to the subgroup on a “renewal” lock to safeguard a registrant against their domain name being lost if their registrar didn’t renew);
 - ii. Profile of the .uk brand (originally scheduled for November);
- b. PAB performance review: an annual review was requested by the Board following the report submitted in May 2008;
- c. Work agreed to be a major focus of the 2009 work programme:
 - i. Industry standards: a discussion of issues and priorities is scheduled for January, but it was agreed at the November meeting to have this as a continuing theme through the year;
 - ii. Phishing: follow-up to the November discussion with APACS (and an invitation for a regular – four or six-monthly – dialogue with the banking sector), as well as developing contacts with other stakeholders;
- d. Team building: this will be outside the normal PAB meeting schedule.

We also noted the implications of the Chair’s initiative on methods of work. This allows:

- a. Work to be spread over more than one meeting, in particular to allow more time for improving understanding;
- b. Members to introduce new issues to the discussion;
- c. The work programme to be more flexible, with the agenda for the next two meetings clearly identified, with the remainder being indicative. A standing agenda item will allow PAB members to keep the work programme under review.

Following the November meeting, PAB members were invited to identify issues for the 2009 work programme. Only one proposal has been made, from Andrew Bennett, who has asked for a review of the Dispute Resolution Service summary transfer process:

“Since withdrawing my paper Eric has offered to re-write parts of it – we are also waiting on some stats from Nominet. Therefore I expect to see this on the agenda for March at the latest please.”

The Chair has prepared a paper on the summary transfer process for the January meeting inviting.

2. Proposal for discussion

The agenda for January has been drawn up to include discussions on Phishing and industry standards to set the agenda for the remainder of 2009. January will also see a new item on reserved names proposed by Mark Healey – this follows on from the discussion on two-letter domains from November. The other items on the agenda are:

- a. Summary transfer review (see paragraph 3 above);
- b. Methods of work: this was proposed by the Chair at the November meeting;

- c. Raising the profile of the PAB: this came out clearly as an issue in the discussion on methods of work in November.

The discussion on lock states has been rescheduled for March and a subgroup meeting is being arranged to prepare that discussion. Subject to Nora's agreement, I suggest that she lead the discussion of the item on Profile of the .uk brand (which she proposed) and this could also be introduced at the March meeting.

Scheduling the discussion on industry standards and Phishing will depend on the decisions made at the January meeting. The draft programme includes slots in each meeting to cover these issues, and it is expected that this will be a major element in each meeting. The programme should include meetings with key stakeholders such as e-commerce businesses, consumer protection agencies, SOCA etc, so agenda programming will depend on availability.

Other issues on the January agenda might also need further discussion in March.

3. Draft Work Programme

On this basis it is suggested that the work programme for 2009 could look like:

Date	Main topics	Notes
January 2009	Industry standards	Identification of issues and planning of future discussion
	Phishing	Identification of follow-up work
	Summary transfer review	Chair paper at the request of Andrew Bennett
	Reserved names	Paper from Mark Healey
	Methods of work	Chairs paper, continuing work
	Raising the profile of the PAB	Initial discussion, identification of programme of work
March 2009	Industry standards	
	Phishing	
	Profile of the .uk brand	Paper from Nora Nanayakkara
	Lock states	Report back from the subgroup
	Reserved names	Dependent on decisions in January
	PAB performance review	Initial discussion
May 2009 (provisional)	Industry standards	
	Phishing	
	Profile of the .uk brand	
	PAB performance review	Approval of the report to the Board
	Raising the profile of the PAB	Subgroup paper
July 2009 (provisional)	Phishing	Second joint workshop with APACS
	Raising the profile of the PAB	

Date	Main topics	Notes
September 2009 (provisional)	Industry standards	
	Phishing	Review of July workshop, planning future work
November 2009 (provisional)	Phishing or industry standards workshop with stakeholder organisation	

Note that the review of the work programme is now a standing item on the agenda, and that there will be an opportunity for members to raise issues for discussion at meetings to assess whether they should be included as items for more detailed discussion at subsequent meetings.

It is suggested that the PAB team building exercise be done at the same time as the induction process for new PAB members. We plan to trawl members for dates in April for this initiative.

4. Recommendation

The PAB is invited to consider the work programme for 2009, in particular in the light of the discussions on Phishing and industry standards.